

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 31-67 are supported by the specification and the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 31-67 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to an alkyldiketene-containing aqueous polymer dispersion, obtained by aqueous emulsion polymerization of at least one hydrophobic monoethylenically unsaturated monomer in the presence of at least one alkyldiketene, wherein the at least one hydrophobic monoethylenically unsaturated monomer and the at least one alkyldiketene have a particle size of 5 to 500 nm. See Claim 31.

The present invention also relates to the process for the preparation of an alkyldiketene-containing aqueous polymer dispersion, comprising aqueous emulsion polymerizing at least one hydrophobic monoethylenically unsaturated monomer in the presence of at least one alkyldiketene, wherein the at least one hydrophobic monoethylenically unsaturated monomer and the at least one alkyldiketene have a particle size of 5 to 500 nm. See Claim 44.

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Japanese 4100994 (JP '994) is respectfully traversed. The cited reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

The claims of the present invention specify that the least one hydrophobic monoethylenically unsaturated monomer and the at least one alkyldiketene have a particle size of 5 to 500 nm. This feature is not specified in the English-language portion of the reference of record. Nor, has any evidence that such a feature is inherent in the reference. Accordingly, JP '994 fails to disclose or suggest the claimed polymer dispersion or method of preparing the same. Therefore, the claims are neither anticipated by nor obvious over that reference. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. In view of those amendments, the claims are

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definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

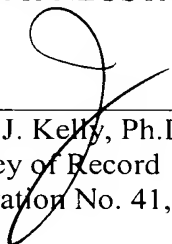
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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